

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /057 W

-----129750 202248Z /72

R 201308Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6158

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ZA

SUBJ: NEW DATES FOR PARTY ELECTIONS ANNOUNCED

1. NEW DATES FOR UNIP PARTY ELECTIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN POSTPONED LAST MONTH, WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL GREY ZULU AT A CLOSED PARTY MEETING IN KASAMA, NORTHERN PROVINCE JULY 19. ZULU ANNOUNCED THAT PARTY REGISTERS, WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE CLOSED BY MAY 31, ARE NOW TO BE CLOSED BY THE END OF JULY. ELECTIONS AT THE VILLAGE AND SECTION LEVEL ARE TO BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 31 AND BRANCH AND CONSTITUENCY ELECTIONS BY SEPTEMBER 30.

2. ZULU ANNOUNCED THAT CANDIDATE ELECTION FEES OF K1 OR K2 IN THE PARTY ELECTIONS WERE BEING DROPPED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE 10TH UNIP NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING (JUNE 27-30). ALSO, ZULU SAID THAT THE PARTY HAD DECIDED TO LOWER THE NUMBER OF ENDORSEMENTS NEEDED BY NOMINEES IN THE PARTY POLLS TO TWO INDIVIDUALS FROM THE FIVE NEEDED PREVIOUSLY.

COMMENT: THE DELAY IN THE PARTY ELECTIONS IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE DISARRAY WITHIN THE PARTY WITH THE 1978 GENERAL ELECTIONS DRAWING CLOSER. THE DROPPING OF CANDIDATE ELECTION FEES AND REDUCING THE NUMBER OF ENDORSEMENTS NEEDED BY NOMINEES
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ARE APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO BROADEN PARTICIPATION IN THE PARTY POLLS. HOWEVER, SINCE THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE STILL HAS THE POWER TO VET THE PARTY ELECTION RESULTS, DECIDING WHO WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAND AS THE NOMINEES FOR PARTY POSTS AND AS PARTY NOMINEES FOR SEATS IN PARLIAMENT, THESE ACTIONS ARE LARGELY COSMETIC. IN GENERAL, THE PARTY'S IMAGE IS NOT BRIGHT THESE DAYS AND ADDITIONAL SUCH COSMETIC GESTURES ARE

LIKELY TO BE FORTHCOMING.
CLINGERMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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